



City of Westminster

NEWS AND NOTES

Volume Four, Issue 3b



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents,

I would like to take this opportunity to remember Stan Ruchlewicz, our Main Street Manager, who passed away this June. Everyone who knew Stan was keenly aware of the time, sacrifice and talent he devoted to making our Downtown the place it is today. Stan loved music and is responsible for the events listed below. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family at this tragic time.

The summer calendar of activities includes something for everyone. The Community Pool is open daily, Summer Camps are in full swing and Recreation on the Move will be visiting your neighborhood park. You can also visit our Farmer's Market on Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Tuesday afternoons from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the South Conaway parking lot at the corner of Railroad Avenue (MD27) and Emerald Hill Lane.

Westminster continues its musical summer with the FIRST THURSDAY CONCERTS on the Library Stage. Extended evening shopping hours and restaurant specials are also offered in conjunction with these concerts.

AUGUST 7 - Chazmo and friends

SEPTEMBER 6 - Frum the Hills

OCTOBER 4 - To be Announced

These concerts are sponsored by the FallFest Committee as part of their commitment to the citizens of the Westminster community. Thank you, FallFest.

The WESTMINSTER MUNICIPAL BAND CONCERT will be held on August 26 at Belle Grove Square Park at 6:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER IS FALLFEST WEEEEKEND! Put the following dates on your calendar now:

Thursday, September 27 - Stacy Davis Foundation Benefit

Thursday, September 27 - FallFest Parade at 6:00 p.m.

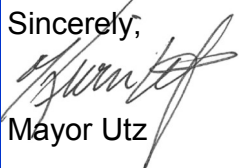
Friday, September 28 - FANtastic Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Friday, September 28 - Midnight Madness from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight

Check out these and other activities on the City's web site at westminstermd.gov. You can also read the Main Street Matters blog on WestminsterPatch.com on Tuesdays, like us on Facebook—"Downtown Westminster Maryland" and follow us on Twitter (@mainstreetmatters) for what's happening Downtown.

I hope to see you around Downtown!

Sincerely,


Mayor Utz

Information on Increased Water Rates

Starting July 1, 2012, a new Bay Restoration Fee (BRF) billing rate established by the State of Maryland, went into effect. The new BRF fee is as follows:

Residential User (single meter for a single residential unit): A flat rate of \$5.00 per month. The City sends out a quarterly bill, so the BRF fee will be \$15.00 per quarter rather than the prior charge of \$7.00 per quarter.

Commercial (multi-family)/Non-Residential Users: The Fee will continue to be calculated based on water usage or wastewater generated, converted into Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU) and billed at the rate of \$5.00 per month per EDU, rather than \$2.50 per month per EDU. For example:

Water Usage (wastewater generated) per month: 90,000 gallons

Average Daily Usage: $90,000/30 = 3,000$ gallons

Conversion to EDU (250 gallons per day = 1 EDU) = $3,000/250 = 12$ EDU

BRF Fee/ Month = $\$5.00 \times 12 = \60

The maximum fee is \$120,000 per year (\$10,000/month) for any single-site user.

City Treasurer

Westminster Tree Walk & Talk

WESTMINSTER TREE WALK AND TALK

Location: Westminster Branch Library

Age: Adults

Description: Join us as we explore the grounds of City Hall and the neighboring area of Willis Street with Steve Allgeier, a local Horticulturalist and University of Maryland Extension Educator. Steve will discuss the attributes of certain trees, as they pertain to landscaping, and the advantages as well as disadvantages of some of our favorites. Rain Date: September 6th.

Event Dates: Tuesday, 9/4/2012, 6:30 PM



Online Access for Water/Sewer Accounts

Get 24/7 unlimited access to your water/sewer account information by registering online at www.westminstermd.gov. View your bill before it arrives in the mail, see payments made and usage history any time of day or night, weekends and holidays. You can also pay your bill via Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card through your online account.

Recreation Events: August, September, & October

August-September-October

National Night Out August 7

For more information on how you and your neighbors can help stop crime by participating in this neighborhood block party, Contact Sgt. Keith Benfer at 410-848-9282!

Memberships are 1/2 off beginning August 1
Westminster Municipal Pool, 325 Royer Road

Tie Dye Party at Municipal Pool

Aug. 24 3-5pm
Bring an item to tie dye or buy a tee shirt from us!
Regular pool admission rates apply.
westminstermd.gov

Car Seat Checks **8/8, 9/5, 10/4** **10am-noon**

Don't take a chance with your precious cargo! Come to our free car seat check and make sure it is properly installed. Call Maggie Rauser at 410-876-4448 for an appt.

Westminster Municipal Band Concert August 26 6 p.m.

The band will play this free annual concert at Belle Grove Square, at the corner of Bond and Green Street. Bring a friend and a lawn chair and enjoy this free concert!

Westminster FallFest 2012 **September 27-30**

In addition to carnival rides, food, craft and commercial vendors, Westminster FallFest is the largest charity fundraiser in Carroll County! Join us for these great features during the weekend too!

Thurs., Sept. 27: *Stacy Davis Foundation Benefit*

Thurs., Sept. 27: *FallFest Parade 6 pm*

Friday, Sept. 28: *FANTastic Friday 10am-1pm*

Friday, September 28: *Midnight Madness 6pm-12am*

For more information on FallFest, go to
www.westminsterfallfest.com

TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL Oct. 27 3-6pm

Join Westminster City Recreation for some spooktacularly FREE fun for the whole family on Trick-or-Treat Trail at Wakefield Valley Community Trail, Tahoma Farm Road, Westminster
BRING A CARVED PUMPKIN
MAKE A PIE (any kind)
HAY RIDE!
TRICK-OR-TREAT

Camp Out In the Park **(yes, overnight!)**

Friday, October 5
5:30pm
Camp out in the "wild" of A City Park TBD!
Enjoy marshmallows, dogs, campfire and movie in the park*!
\$10 per family

Parent's Night Out!

Back by popular demand! Kids will have a great time playing games, doing crafts, watching movies, eating pizza and making new friends!

5-8:30pm

Coming soon-Check the website for dates!

Easy Things You Can Do to Protect Water

As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a stream, river, wetland or coastal water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect streams, rivers, wetlands and the Chesapeake Bay!

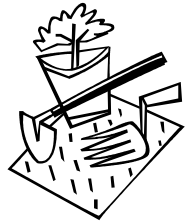
Vehicle and Garage:

- ◆ Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to **minimize** the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into your local waterbody.
- ◆ Check your car, boat, motorcycle and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Clean up **spilled fluids** with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain.
- ◆ **Recycle** used oil and other automotive fluids at participating stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.



Lawn and Garden:

- ◆ Use pesticides and fertilizers **sparingly** and in recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain, otherwise chemicals will be washed away.
- ◆ Select **native** plants and grasses that are drought- and pest-resistant; they require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.
- ◆ **Sweep up** yard debris rather than using a garden hose. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- ◆ Don't overwater your lawn. Water during the **cool** times of the day and don't let water run off into the storm drain.
- ◆ Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into local waterbodies. **Vegetate** bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.



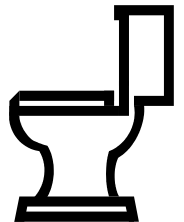
Home Repair and Improvement:

- ◆ **Before** beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and **protect** them from debris and other materials.
- ◆ **Sweep up** and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- ◆ Use hazardous substances like paint, solvents and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. **Clean up spills immediately**, and dispose of the waste safely.
- ◆ Purchase and use **nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled and recyclable** products whenever possible.
- ◆ **Clean** paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program or donate unused paint to local organizations.
- ◆ **Reduce** the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.



Septic Systems and Maintenance:

- ◆ Have your septic system **inspected** by a professional and have the septic tank **pumped** as necessary.
- ◆ Care for septic system drainfield by **not** driving or parking vehicles on it. Plant only grass over and near the drainfield to avoid damage from roots.
- ◆ Flush responsibly. Flushing household chemicals and medication can **destroy** the biological treatment taking place in the system. Other items such as diapers, paper towels and kitty litter can **clog** the septic system and potentially damage components.



Pet Care:

- ◆ When walking your pet, remember to **pick up** waste and dispose of it properly to reduce risk of harmful bacteria washing into the storm drain and eventually into local waterbodies.

Swimming Pool and Spa:

- ◆ **Drain** your swimming pool only when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels.
- ◆ Properly store pool and spa chemicals to **prevent** leaks and spills, preferably in a covered area.



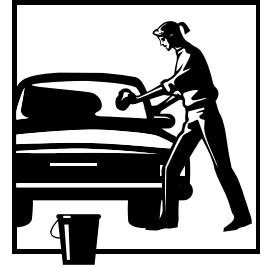
Related State/Federal Websites:

Maryland Department of the Environment—www.mde.state.md.us
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater

Vehicle Washwater: Keeping it Out of Our Waters

Vehicle washwater can impact surface waters and underground sources of drinking water, and can even destroy organisms necessary for proper functioning of septic systems. This washwater can also enter an aquifer, which supplies drinking water to Maryland residents.

What comes off our vehicles? Oil, grease, metal (paint chips), brake dust, rust, detergents, cleaners, road salts and other chemicals that contaminate underground sources of drinking water. All soaps, even those labeled “biodegradable” contain surfactants, which enable the cleanser to rinse off easily with water. These surfactants reduce the dissolved oxygen concentration in surface water; destroy external mucous layers of fish; lower surface tension of the water, allowing pesticides and phenols to be more easily absorbed by fish. Road salt can run off to streams and lakes and, in some cases, contaminate wells. A mixture of sand and salt can clog stormwater inlets. Chloride from road salt can also be toxic to aquatic life.



Treatment and Disposal Options:

- ◆ Discharge vehicle wastewater through a drain connected to a sanitary sewer, with a pretreatment if possible.
 - ◆ Discharge wastewater to a holding tank, removable periodically by a certified hauler.
- ◆ Wash vehicles at an off-site commercial car wash with an approved disposal system. Some facilities are investing in a 75-80% closed-loop water recycling system.

Best Management Practices:

- ◆ Wash vehicles in a dedicated wash bay on an impermeable surface away from any storm drains. Any floor drains may need treatment, such as an oil/water separator.
 - ◆ If detergents are absolutely necessary, use only phosphate-free types.
- ◆ Wash vehicle/equipment exteriors only. Washing engines or undercarriages may release harmful degreasers or solvents. Use water-based degreasers, only if necessary, that can biodegrade in the sewer system.
- ◆ Use “dry” washing and detailing techniques and kitty litter to absorb oil spills. If unable to dry-clean, use mop & bucket or high pressure, low-flow nozzle.
 - ◆ Label storm drains on your property “Storm Drain—No Dumping”.

If you have any questions, call:

MDE Groundwater Permits Division—410-537-3778

MDE Industrial Surface Permits Division—410-537-3323

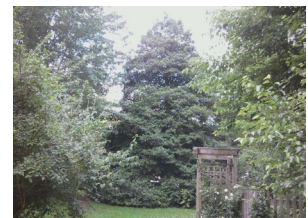
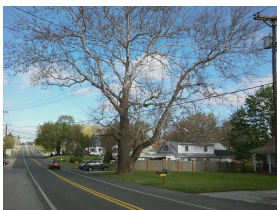
New Heritage Tree Program

The City of Westminster Tree Commission established the Heritage Tree Program in 2011 to encourage residents and property owners to identify and protect individual trees or groups of trees that meet one or more of the following qualifications:

- ◆ Specimen: A tree of exceptional size, form or rarity, or horticultural value.
- ◆ Historic: A tree of exceptional age; a tree associated with, or contributing to, an historic structure, noted person, or historic event.
- ◆ Landmark: A tree that is a prominent identifying feature of a community.
- ◆ Collection: A group of trees in a notable grove, avenue or other planting.

Anyone may nominate a tree or trees, but the person who owns the land on which the tree stands must consent to the nomination. Trees located in County right-of-way are not eligible. There are no regulatory restrictions associated with the designation. Nominated trees will be inspected by a certified arborist to ensure criteria are met.

For more information, visit our webpage at <http://westminstermd.gov/citygov/heritagetrees.htm>. You can also view all of the nominations at <https://picasaweb.google.com/WestminsterMD.gov/HeritageTreeProgram>.



Carroll Arts Center Events

Saturday, August 4, 7:30pm: The Carroll County Arts Council is proud to host one of the region's top bluegrass bands, Aspen Run, for a live concert. Aspen Run is a family-centered band that plays hard driving, upbeat and exciting bluegrass music. Tickets for the concert are \$14 for adults and \$12 for CCAC Members, Students & Seniors.

Friday, August 10, 7:30pm: The Carroll Players present "Big Bad" by Alec Strum: 2006 winner of the Shubert Fendrich Memorial Playwriting Contest. "Big Bad" is a smart and wickedly funny play that lets the audience determine the outcome of the play! Tickets are \$10 for Adults; \$6 children 10 & under.

Saturday, August 18, 7:30pm: The Carroll County Arts Council is proud to be hosting a performance by The Richard Walton Group. The Richard Walton Group is celebrating 20 years as an accomplished, award winning, instrumental contemporary jazz group. They have collectively received 36 songwriting awards from numerous songwriting contests. The cool jazz promises to soothe the audience with their smooth jazz sounds during these dog days of summer! Tickets for the concert are \$14 for adults and \$12 for CCAC Members, Students and Seniors. Tickets can be purchased with a credit card by going to www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org or by calling 410/848-7272.

Friday, August 24, 7:30pm: FLICC has chosen the Oscar Award-winning film "Hugo", 2011; PG, 127 mins. Set in 1930s Paris, an orphan who lives in the walls of a train station is wrapped up in a mystery involving his late father and an automaton. It was directed by Martin Scorsese and stars Sacha Baron Cohen, Ben Kingsley and Asa Butterfield. Tickets are \$6 for Adults and \$5 for CCAC Members, Students and Seniors.

Friday, September 14, 7:30pm: FLICC has chosen the Oscar Award-winning film "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close", 2011, PG13, 129 mins. The poignant story is based on the best-selling book by Jonathan Safran and it follows the journey of Oskar, a troubled young boy whose father is killed in the World Trade Center on September 11. It stars Tom Hanks, Sandra Bullock and young Thomas Horn as Oskar, the central character. Tickets are \$6 for Adults and \$5 for CCAC Members, Students and Seniors.

Saturday, September 29, 7:30pm: The National Players present Shakespeare's "Romeo & Juliet". This production is National Players at its best—fresh and contemporary. This rendering of star crossed lovers set to the pulsing rhythms of contemporary digital society, where everything is shared and nothing connects, takes the play back to its source, while bringing it vividly into the here and now. Tickets are \$20 for Adults and \$15 for CCAC Members, Students & Seniors.

Please check our website for the most current and up-to-date schedule of events!



Gallery Exhibit

10th Annual Members Art Exhibit: August 16—October 6. The Carroll County Arts Council will be celebrating its 10th annual Members Art Exhibit with a gala champagne reception for the public on Thursday, August 16 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Nearly 150 entries are expected for the exhibition that has become an annual tradition showcasing the artistic talents of the organization's members. The works will be on view in the Arts Center's Tevis Gallery, Community Gallery and second floor halls.



"Although this exhibit happens every year, we have added several special touches this year in celebration of our 10th anniversary," notes Executive Director Sandy

Oxx. Thanks to our generous sponsors, Lloyd Helt and Ruth Gray, we will be offering cash prizes to several of our top artists. These prizes will be determined by a judging panel consisting of Gretchen Schermerhorn, Artistic director of Pyramid Atlantic, Michael Bare, a painter and educator and Walter Calahan, a freelance photographer. In addition to the artistic excellence awards that they select, we'll be honoring a "People's Choice" award as well." This show will feature a wide range of styles and mediums including painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, and fine crafts. Most works are for sale.

The Carroll Arts Center is located at 91 West Main Street in Westminster and is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am to 8 pm. For more information, call 410/848-7272 or visit www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org.

Summer Camp Available

The Carroll Arts Center has a long tradition of educating, enlightening and entertaining hundreds of children each summer during its popular summer camps. One summer camp remains for the 2012 season. On-line registration is available.

Circus Stars Camp August 13-24

All camps are held at the Carroll Arts Center in downtown Westminster. Campers attending full-day camps will need to bring a non-perishable lunch with them. Tuition assistance is available through the Tom Holder Memorial Arts Scholarship Fund. Registration information is available by calling 410/848-7272 or visiting www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org.